

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, before FIELD OF THE INVENTION, please add the following paragraph:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation application of prior copending International Application No. PCT/US02/16048, filed May 21, 2002, designating the U.S.; which claims benefit of Provisional Application Serial No. 60/294,515 filed May 30, 2001.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, lines 9 - 16, with the following amended paragraph:

The opening device 18 includes a substantially continuous line of weakness which traverses the top panel ~~[[11]]~~ 14 in an area generally coinciding with the length of the stack 22 of disposable absorbent articles 20. In the embodiment shown in Figure, the substantially continuous line of weakness 19 includes a line of perforation formed in the top panel 14. Since the continuous line of weakness 19 is located in the top panel 14 which is substantially untensioned (or low tensioned), this line of weakness 19 can be designed to rupture at relatively low levels of applied force.